NOV. 23-25, 2006

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on November 23 and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on November 24 and 25. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major discussions and decisions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

President's Report

The President reported to Provincial Executive on his activities since the September meeting. Besides his lunch time visits to schools, he also attended the 50th Anniversary of St. Teresa's School and Mary Queen of the World School, met with teachers at Paradise Elementary re air quality problems at the school, as well as visits to other schools to meet with teachers and hear their concerns. He attended numerous meetings at the provincial and national levels in his capacity as President, he attended the school rep seminar in Corner Brook, various Branch meetings, several Remembrance Day ceremonies, and the Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador rally regarding cuts in federal government funding for literacy programs.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

Business from Standing Committees

Table Officers

- Executive will recommend to the 2007 BGM the necessary amendments to the NLTA by-laws in order to eliminate the Professional Relations Committee and implement the Professional Relations Dispute Resolution Process.
- Honorary Membership will be bestowed upon Dr. Myrle Vokey at the 2007 BGM.
- The NLTA will request to be included among the groups laying wreaths during remembrance ceremonies at the St. John's War Memorial on July 1 and November 11.
- A communiqué will be issued to all members from the President advising of the NLTA's position on, and the potential negative implications of, adding minutes to the school day to bank time for professional development. The President will also write the President of the School Administrators Council outlining the NLTA position on this issue.
- The proposed Executive meeting schedule for 2007-08 was approved as follows: September 13-15; November 1 (followed by Joint Council on November 2-3); January 19-20; March 27 (followed by Joint Council on March 28 and 29); June 6-7.

For further information on business of Table Officers contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Communications / Political Action Committee

- The theme for Education Week 2007 will be *Live Healthy! Learn Well!*
- The opening ceremonies for Education Week 2007 will take place at a school in the Cormack Trail area.

For further information on business of the Communications/Political Action Committee contact Jackie Maloney, Chair or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Equity Issues in Education Committee

The current expenses for child care will be increased to a payment of the minimum wage per hour to a maximum of $80 per day for a 24-hour period.

For further information contact Paul Pinsent, Chair or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Membership Benefits and Services Committee

- The NLTA will communicate with all school district directors that the stipend provided by the MUN Faculty of Education for taking student teacher interns be distributed on the basis of $250 to the cooperating teacher and $50 to the principal.
- The NLTA will approach the MUN Faculty of Education to lobby for an increase in the stipend paid to cooperating teachers to reflect the percentage of increase in tuition at MUN since the internship program for Education students was initiated and that the stipend should be increased on a go forward basis by a percentage reflecting any future tuition increases.

For further information contact Edward Moore, Chair or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Professional Issues Committee

The proposed guidelines for a new award to recognize individuals outside the K-12 system for their outstanding contribution to teachers and the teaching profession, either through their role as advocates or through a relationship with the NLTA resulting in a positive impact on teaching and learning, were accepted. The cost of the award will be taken from the Centennial Fund.

For further information contact Lily Cole, Chair or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

(continued)

JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association priorities for 2006-07 was presented to Joint Council. The NLTA administrative staff updated Provincial Executive and Branch Presidents on various elements of the priorities including objectives, timelines and action updates. The priorities are: quality of teachers' work life/contract negotiations; membership awareness; and professionalism/accountability.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Pre-Budget Consultations for the 2007-09 NLTA Budget

Joint Council was provided with the draft NLTA budgets for 2007-08 and 2008-09. Joint Council was asked for input to assist the Finance and Property Committee in the preparation of its final draft to the Provincial Executive. The draft budget will then be presented to BGM 2007 for debate and approval.

For further information contact Dean Ingram, Chair or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

Teacher Certification Regulations

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Mr. Robert Parsons, Registrar for Teacher Certification, Department of Education, as well as Bill Chaisson and Beverley Park, NLTA Representatives on the Teacher Certification Committee. The presentation included background information on the committee and regulations, chronology of the work of the committee, and issues surrounding credit for professional development. Joint Council members had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Provincial Executive or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Proposed Branch Viability Guidelines

The proposed Branch Viability Guidelines were presented to Joint Council for review and discussion along with NLTA policy changes concerning these guidelines. Branch Presidents had the opportunity to discuss the proposed guidelines in small group sessions and to provide input to Provincial Executive on the same. The feedback from Joint Council will be reviewed by the Membership Benefits and Services Committee with possible recommendations to Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Edward Moore, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division, or Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

NLTA Communications Strategy

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Communications Officer, Lesley-Ann Browne, on the most recent communications campaign and strategy. The campaign, titled *Hands Up for Our Children's Education*, is a public awareness campaign on teacher stress and workload and the teaching and learning conditions of our students. The campaign will air for three weeks in December and then again in January, consisting of radio, television and print.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Commission to Review the ISSP/Pathways Model

A presentation was made to Joint Council on the NLTA's submission to the Commission to Review the ISSP/Pathways Model by Lily Cole, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on ISSP/Pathways Review. The terms of reference of the Commission as well as the NLTA's Ad Hoc Committee were reviewed, as were the questionnaire sent out by the committee, key themes of the questionnaire and the general direction of the four key areas for recommendation. A copy of the full submission, *Supporting Services, Supporting Learning*, is available on the NLTA website.

For further information contact Lily Cole, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on ISSP/Pathways Review, Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director, or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

Commission to Review the Teacher Allocation Model

A presentation was made to Joint Council on the NLTA's submission to the Commission to Review the Teacher Allocation Model by Sean Noah, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher Allocation Review. The presentation reviewed the terms of reference, the themes and recommendations, and documents reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee. A copy of the full submission to the Commission to Review the Teacher Allocation Model, *Teaching and Learning: The Essence of Education*, is available on the NLTA website.

For further information contact Sean Noah, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher Allocation Review, Beverley Park, Professional Development Division or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

(continued)

BGM 2007

The deadlines and important dates to remember for BGM 2007 were reviewed with Joint Council. These dates are as follows: NLTA Act and By-law Changes – January 11, 2007; Resolutions to BGM – February 11, 2007; Nominations for Provincial Executive to be published in *The Bulletin* – February 11, 2007; Designate/Alternates for publication in *The Bulletin* – February 11, 2007; BGM kits mailed to delegates – week of March 12-16, 2007; 2007 Biennial General Meeting – April 10 (evening) to April 13, 2007; Final nominations for Provincial Executive – April 12, 2007.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

NLTA Membership Database

The NLTA is in the process of establishing its own membership database. This database will be used for internal purposes only to allow the Association to provide the best possible professional services to teachers and to communicate directly to the membership. Teachers have been asked to update their current contact information on a personalized form, including details on years of teaching, areas of specialization, other personal information, as well as special interest council information, and return to the NLTA by the end of November.

For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer, or Mary Ann Grimes, Assistant to the Executive Director.

NLTA Policy Changes

A number of changes in policy statement since the 2005 Biennial General Meeting were approved by Joint Council. These policies provide direction for continuity of decisions and guidance to those who take positions on behalf of the Association. The amended policies include: investments; scent-sensitive workplace; special interest councils; election of the President and Vice-President by province-wide vote; negotiating team for provincial negotiations; pre-retirement counselors; length of Kindergarten day; equality and access of opportunity; substitute teachers; and Joint Council.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

School Board-Teacher Liaison Committees

A presentation on the School Board-Teacher Liaison Committees was made to Joint Council by Executive Director Edward Hancock. The presentation included an overview of the committees, general objectives, how teacher members are appointed, the role of the teacher representatives, and a sample of topics that are usually discussed at the committee meetings.

For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

Advisory Motions from Joint Council to Provincial Executive

A number of advisory motions for the Provincial Executive were approved during the course of the Joint Council meeting, as follows:

- That the steering committee ensure that Branch Presidents' topics begin on the first morning of a Joint Council meeting.
- That the NLTA poll the membership regarding the three-week pay gap which occurs for teachers every five to six years.
- That the NLTA hold a session on Occupational Health and Safety at BGM 2007.
- That a scheduled information session be held at BGM 2007 on school safety dealing with various issues on teacher safety and teacher rights.
- That the NLTA examine hiring practices in other educational jurisdictions, including provincial governments and the Public Service Commission of Canada to form a hiring policy for teachers in substitute and replacement roles.
- That the NLTA contact the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Provincial Fire Commissioner's Office with the intent of having each classroom in the province classified and on each door be posted a maximum ceiling for the number of people allowed in each room.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and/or Joint Council for follow-up or further direction: teacher induction; discretionary/family/unpaid leave; confidentiality; student discipline; hiring of student assistants; three-week pay gap; supervision of students; technical support; scheduling of parent-teacher reports; school insurance; school safety; curriculum nights; substitute days; violence in schools; extension of school day; occupational health and safety; substitute teachers; and the NLTA email groups.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **February 21 and 22** and will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on **February 23 and 24**.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.